

**Testimony to the Human Services Committee Regarding
An Act Concerning Expansion of HUSKY Health Benefits to Those Ineligible Due to
Immigration Status
February 14, 2023**

Senator Lesser, Representative Gilcrest, Senator Seminara, Representative Case, and honorable members of the Human Services Committee. My name is Kathleen Baber and I am a resident of Manchester, as well as a member of Glastonbury's First Church of Christ core team on the Greater Hartford Interfaith Action Alliance.

I am writing to express my support for House Bill 6616: *An Act Concerning Expansion of HUSKY Health Benefits to Those Ineligible Due to Immigration Status*

Voting in favor of this act will close the gap currently in place pertaining to the age group of undocumented citizens over 12 years to age 26. The recent expansion of eligibility for coverage for undocumented children up to age 12 is greatly appreciated, and this effort to achieve an enhanced continuum of care for this population is critical to ensuring an effective health system for those who live and work and go to school in our communities under this undocumented status.

I believe that health care is a human right, and that no one should be denied health care because of their immigration status. I am especially passionate in my belief that much needed mental health care services be made available to all who are in need of them. Addressing this deficiency in the current eligibility will help our fellow community members to thrive and in turn to thrive as a community in total.

Thank you so much for your consideration of these views regarding providing health care needs for this population.